

PRIORITY CHANNEL SCANNING METHOD AND APPARATUS

Abstract of the Invention

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A portable receiver receives information on a network of FM SCA transmitters. Each transmitter may have a different cell size. A handoff is performed when the portable receiver travels from the coverage area of one network transmitter to another network transmitter.

Fluctuations in signal quality could result in several handoffs as the portable receiver travels.

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Excessive handoff operations potentially reduce the battery life of the portable receiver. The portable receiver performs channel scanning and locking on a priority basis that reduces the likelihood of additional handoffs. Priority basis is assigned to a transmitter based upon indicia including its coverage area causing the portable to prefer locking on to transmitters on the basis of both signal quality and channel priority.